

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the previous amendments and following remarks.

Before turning to the claims, a brief discussion of the embodiment illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 of this application is provided. As shown in Fig. 1, a smart card includes antenna 11 on support sheet 10, antenna 11 having at least two turns and a pair of connecting pads 12 disposed on a common side of the turns. One of the ends of the antenna is connected to connecting pad 12 by bridge 13. Bridge 13 is disposed on a surface of the turns that is away from the support sheet 10 and includes insulating layer 14 and conductive element 15. Conductive element 15 provides for electrical connection of an end of antenna 11 to the connecting pad 12.

Turning to the claims, Claim 1, the only rejected independent claim, is rejected as being anticipated by Fidalgo. However, Claim 1 is amended to recite electrically connecting at least one of the ends of the antenna to a respective one of the connection pads by means of a bridge disposed on a surface of the turns that is away from the support sheet.

The Official Action appears to interpret layer of bonder 6 of Fidalgo as constituting a bridge. Assuming for the sake of discussion that this interpretation is correct, it is quite clear that the layer of bonder 6 of Fidalgo does not electrically connect any of the components of the Fidalgo device. Indeed, as disclosed in lines 35-36 of column 3 of Fidalgo, antenna 5 is itself embedded in the layer of bonder 6, and thus layer of bonder 6 is insulating and does not provide an electrical connection.

Claim 1 is therefore allowable over Fidalgo, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 as being anticipated by Fidalgo is respectfully requested.

New independent Claim 47 recites a patentably distinguishable method for manufacturing sheet supports including producing, on a face of a support sheet, an antenna with at least two turns and a pair of ends, wherein a segment of one of the turns crosses over at least one turn of the at least two turns without creating a short circuit so that both ends are on a common side of the at least two turns. Allowance of new Claim 47 is respectfully requested,

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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By: Peter T. deVore
James A. LaBarre
Registration No. 28,632

Peter T. deVore
Registration No. 60,361

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620